GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2669
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
BENEFICIARIES OF HEALTH CARE SCHEMES
Gaikwad Shri Eknath Mahadeo;Mane Smt. Nivedita;Singh Shri Kirti Vardhan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the remarks of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research that the health care schemes of the Government are mainly benefiting only the rich as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 25th July, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the facts thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (d) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that the report mentioned in the news item was in connection with the Foundation Day Celebrations of Ramakrishna Mission Sewa Pratishthan on 24th July, 2005 at Kolkata in which Dr. N.K. Ganguly, Director General, ICMR had delivered a lecture. He had explained how several schemes of the Government especially the Rural Health Mission programme would help to correct the imbalance in access of health care between the rich and the poor segments of a community. He had quoted published figures from India (National Council of Applied and Economic Research) and abroad (World Bank and the WHO) citing the inequalities in benefits from public health care programmes (like oral rehydration therapy, immunization, antenatal care) accruing to the poorest and the richest quartiles of the population. During his lecture at no point he stated that the schemes launched by the Government for the poor were benefiting the rich people. Prof. Ganguly had in fact appealed to the health research institutes to undertake more research to enhance the access and reach of the poor population to health care. However, it has been stated by ICMR that the statements made by Dr. Ganguly during the said lecture have been quoted in the newspaper report out of context and incorrectly.